



## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### OUR MISSION

We are here to enrich the understanding and appreciation of London and all its people – past, present and future. In doing this, we aspire to be a force for good in London, as London must be for the world.

### SUSTAINABILITY AS PART OF WHAT WE DO

Contributing to improving London's environment is part of the role we want to play in the life of London and its people, and we recognise that sustainability is a global issue. Our Strategic Plan 2018–2023 sets out the challenges we face, particularly around managing an aging infrastructure, and our aim to work more sustainably. This policy sets a direction of travel, building on initiatives such as the exhibition *Fatberg!* where we used programming to engage audiences and raise awareness.

We recognise that our activities and choices have social, environmental and financial implications, each of which has a role to play in operating as a sustainable organisation.

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Our approach supports the sustainability strategies of our partners including the Mayor's London Environment Strategy (with a vision for London including zero waste to landfill by 2026, 65% waste recycled by 2030 and zero carbon by 2050), the City of London's Corporate Plan sustainability priorities and the Arts Council England goal to make cultural organisations more resilient and environmentally sustainable.

**To operate in a more sustainable way and make London a better place for everyone we will:**

#### 1. INCLUDE SUSTAINABILITY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR AUDIENCES, PARTNERS AND STAFF

- Our **content and programming** will explore questions around sustainability and draw connections between the past, present and future, as relevant to the stories we tell
- We recognise tackling sustainability challenges is a shared endeavour and we will connect with our **partners and external networks** to exchange ideas, learning and support
- Working in a sustainable way is embedded within our **core organisational behaviours**
- We see managing our people well, including supporting staff to maintain a good work–life balance and promoting activities focused on the **health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers**, as part of being a sustainable organisation

#### 2. LOOK REGULARLY AT OUR OPERATIONS TO MAKE THEM THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE

- Our starting point is always ensuring **compliance with relevant legislation and regulations** and we will seek to achieve best practice where we can
- We will **prevent pollution or contamination** of air, land or water, working closely with our contractors, including promoting practices to reduce our impact on local air quality

- **Technology can be utilised** to contribute to working more efficiently and using less natural resources and we will keep up-to-date with and be open to new ways to do this
- We will continue to promote the **use of public transport** by visitors and staff, support cycling initiatives and limit journeys by our vehicles, which now include an electric van, to essential operational trips

### 3. TAKE CARE OF RESOURCES AND NOT BE WASTEFUL

- Finding **more ways to reduce, re-use or recycle** the resources we require is an ongoing task with key actions including; operating a **zero to landfill** waste policy; maintaining extensive **recycling facilities** at all sites; reducing **single-use plastics** particularly in our catering operations; providing museum staff with **'keep cups' and refillable water bottles**; re-using key items such as showcases in exhibitions and recycling conservation packing materials.
- The goods and services we buy have sustainability implications and we will **use our procurement process** to explore with suppliers, where relevant, whether there are options to help us reduce environmental impact
- We will work with our catering partners to **ensure ethical and local sourcing** where possible and a range of menu choices

### 4. FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE HOW WE MANAGE OUR BUILDINGS AND CARE FOR OUR COLLECTIONS

- We acknowledge our aging buildings make power (particularly electricity) and water consumption a major challenge and will continue to identify ways to **manage usage and improve efficiency** and reduce our carbon emissions
- Phased building **refurbishment work and infrastructure upgrades** will be scoped to contribute to improved efficiency and environmental performance
- A **sustainable approach to collections management** will be implemented through a strategy of close monitoring and low-energy or passive environmental control where this can be applied

### 5. REALISE OUR ASPIRATIONS TO BECOME A GREENER MUSEUM THROUGH THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

- The **renewal and re-use of the existing buildings and materials** at West Smithfield will significantly reduce the environmental impact of creating a new museum for London
- We are committed to working with the building design team to understand the associated environmental **impacts of different technical solutions** before proceeding
- Our target is to achieve a **BREEAM accreditation of 'excellent'** putting us in the top 10% of newly developed buildings

**Implementation:** We will monitor and report on the key areas of environmental impact including energy, water and waste levels. An operational Action Plan will be produced each year tracking initiatives across departments and major projects.

**Review and approval:** The Sustainability Statement will be reviewed at least every four years by the Museum's Executive Board.

This version was approved by the Executive Board on 16 April 2019.

**Sharon Ament**  
**Director, Museum of London**